



# AG DIGEST



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## Highlights

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## ANNUAL EGG PRODUCTION & CHICKEN INVENTORY

Annual egg production in Pennsylvania for the year ending November 30, 1999 was 6.14 billion eggs, 3 percent more than the 5.98 billion produced in 1998. There was an average of 22.6 million layers in Pennsylvania laying flocks during the 12 month period, 3 percent more than the 22.0 million the previous year. Average annual production per layer was 271 eggs, unchanged from the previous year.

All chicken inventory (excluding commercial broilers) as of December 1, 1999 totaled 27.9 million, down 2 percent from the 28.5 million one year earlier. Pennsylvania ranked 6th in chicken inventory on December 1, 1999. Pennsylvania ranked 5th in layers on hand December 1. Only Ohio, with 31.3 million, Iowa, with 27.0 million, California, with 25.2 million, and Indiana, with 22.9 million, were the only states outranking Pennsylvania in layers. Commonwealth flocks included 22.8 million layers 20 weeks old and older, up less than 1 percent; 5.0 million pullets less than 20 weeks old, down 12 percent; and 115,000 other chickens, up 10 percent from the inventory on December 1, 1998. The average value per bird on hand December 1, 1999 was \$1.80. Total value of all flocks in Pennsylvania on December 1, 1999 was estimated at 50.2 million dollars, up 4 percent from the 48.4 million dollars in 1998.

Nationally, egg production during the year ending November 30, 1999 totaled a record high 82.7 billion eggs, up 4 percent from the previous year. Layer numbers averaged 322 million, up 3 percent from 1998. The annual average production per layer on hand in 1999 was 257 eggs, compared with the 1998 average of 255 eggs per layer.

## VEGETABLES

Pennsylvania's vegetable farmers harvested 15,800 acres of sweet corn for fresh market in 1999 with production totaling 695,000 cwt. This is 32 percent less than the 1998 production for fresh market. Average value of fresh market sweet corn was \$23.50 per cwt., 104 per cwt. more than the price received in 1998. Production for processed sweet corn amounted to 13,370 tons, a decrease of 26 percent from 1998's production. The average value for processed sweet corn decreased from \$82.30 per ton in 1998 to \$67.60 per ton in 1999. Nationally, 242,300 acres of sweet corn was harvested for fresh market in 1999 and 466,800 acres were harvested for processing. Fresh market production totaled 27.2 million cwt. and was valued at \$16.80 per cwt. Processing production totaled 3.3 million tons in 1999 with an average value of \$71.10 per ton. Fifty-three percent of the processing production was utilized for canning and 47 percent was for freezing.

Pennsylvania's 1999 fresh market tomato production was estimated at 570,000 cwt., up 8 percent from 1998. Area harvested was 3,800 acres. The average value was \$25.50 per cwt. Pennsylvania's production of tomatoes for processing was 31,500 tons, down 7 percent from a year ago. Total acreage harvested was 1,400. The average value per ton increased from \$80.00 in 1998 to \$78.00 in 1999. In Pennsylvania, 7,600 acres of snap beans were harvested for processing in 1999. Total production was 16,640 tons with an average value of \$209.00 per ton. Strawberry production for fresh market and processing was 52,000 cwt., harvested from 1,300 acres. Average value per cwt. was \$105.00. Pennsylvania's 1999 fresh market cabbage production was estimated at 281,000 cwt. Area harvested was 1,700 acres. The average value was \$13.30 per cwt. Pennsylvania's cantaloupe production for fresh market was 120,000 cwt. Total acreage harvested was 1,000. The average value per cwt. was \$16.00 in 1999.

## ANNUAL EGG PRODUCTION & CHICKEN INVENTORY, PENNSYLVANIA & US, 1998-1999<sup>1</sup>

Production & Inventory	Pennsylvania			United States		
	1998	1999	1999/98	1998	1999	1999/98
			Percent			Percent
Egg Production (Million) . . . . .	5,983	6,135	103	79,690	82,707	104
Average Number of Layers (000) . . . . .	22,049	22,634	103	312,035	322,322	103
Rate of Lay/Layer . . . . .	271	271	100	255	257	101
December 1 Inventory:						
Hens & Pullets of Laying Age (000) . . . . .	22,655	22,788	101	321,718	329,305	102
Pullets 13 Weeks Old & Older Not of Laying . . . . .	2,490	2,462	99	39,664	38,587	97
Pullets Under 13 Weeks of Age (000) . . . . .	3,204	2,520	79	55,981	58,775	105
Other Chickens (000) . . . . .	105	115	110	7,682	9,659	126
Total (000) . . . . .	28,454	27,885	98	425,045	436,326	103

<sup>1</sup> For egg production, marketing year ends November 30.

# PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, JANUARY 2000

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Jan 1999	Dec 1999	Jan 2000 <sup>1</sup>	Jan 1999	Dec 1999	Jan 2000 <sup>1</sup>
Dollars							
Corn . . . . .	Bu.	2.50	2.40	2.45	2.06	1.82	1.90
Wheat, Winter . . . . .	Bu.	-	-	-	2.70	2.27	2.35
Oats . . . . .	Bu.	1.63	1.81	1.68	1.20	1.17	1.18
Barley . . . . .	Bu.	-	-	-	1.89	2.24	2.19
Hay, All . . . . .	Ton	117.00	136.00	138.00	78.50	71.10	71.80
Alfalfa . . . . .	Ton	131.00	153.00	152.00	81.40	73.20	74.10
Other . . . . .	Ton	105.00	126.00	126.00	70.60	65.90	65.90
Apples, Fresh Use . . .	Cwt.	23.00	24.00	20.00	15.80	23.70	23.50
Potatoes . . . . .	Cwt.	7.75	8.00	8.30	5.32	5.58	5.64
Cows, Slaughter . . .	Cwt.	35.30	36.80	36.30	33.40	35.10	35.20
Steers & Heifers . . . .	Cwt.	59.00	66.70	65.80	62.20	70.80	70.70
Calves . . . . .	Cwt.	87.70	116.00	102.00	83.20	98.60	102.00
Barrows & Gilts . . . .	Cwt.	25.30	35.30	35.40	26.70	36.00	36.50
Sows . . . . .	Cwt.	15.70	23.60	28.50	18.00	26.70	32.20
Turkeys <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	Lb.	.350	.430	<sup>2</sup>	.348	.422	.364
Broilers <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	Lb.	.380	<sup>2</sup>	<sup>2</sup>	.379	.368	.350
Eggs, <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	Doz.	.590	.510	.490	.582	.433	.397
Milk, Fluid Grade . . .	Cwt.	18.30	13.10	-	17.50	12.20	12.00
Manufactured Grade	Cwt.	16.50	9.60	-	15.30	10.70	10.70
All . . . . .	Cwt.	18.30	13.10	12.90	17.40	12.20	11.90
Milk Cows <sup>4</sup> . . . . .	Head	1,320.00	-	1,320.00	1,250.00	-	1,330.00

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary. <sup>2</sup> State price no longer published. <sup>3</sup> Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. <sup>4</sup> Quarterly (Jan., Apr., July, Oct.).

## PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DROPS 2 POINTS

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in January was 90 based on 1990-92= 100, down 2 points (2.2 percent) from the December index. Lower prices for broilers, milk, turkeys, and tomatoes more than offset price increases for corn, lettuce, soybeans, and cotton. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Lower seasonal marketings of cotton, tobacco, grapes, and cottonseed more than offset the relatively higher marketings of corn, soybeans, cattle, and rice. These marketing changes account for about one point of the January index decrease.

Compared with January 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 7 points (7.2 percent) lower. Price decreases from January 1999 for milk, soybeans, cotton, and corn more than offset price increases for cattle, hogs, lettuce, and apples.

Food Grains: The January Food Grains Index, at 86, was up 1.2 percent from the previous month but 16 percent below January 1999. The January all wheat price, at \$2.52 per bushel, was unchanged from the December price but 32 cents below January 1999.

Feed Grains & Hay: The January index was 84, up 3.7 percent from last month but 7.7 percent below January 1999. The corn price, at \$1.90 per bushel, was up 8 cents from December but 16 cents below the January 1999 price. The all hay price, at \$71.80 per ton, was up 70 cents from last month but \$6.70 below January 1999. Alfalfa hay prices were up from last month while other hay prices were unchanged.

## SHEEP INVENTORY DOWN 4 PERCENT

All sheep and lamb inventory in Pennsylvania on January 1, 2000 totaled 80,000, which was 4 percent lower than the previous year. Total inventory included 53,000 breeding ewes one year old and older, down 4 percent from the 55,000 on January 1, 1999. There were 10,000 replacement lambs, down 9 percent from last year. Rams one year old and older totaled 5,000, also unchanged from a year ago. Market sheep and lambs totaled 12,000 on January 1, 2000, unchanged from last year. Of this total, 10,000 were market lambs and 2,000 were market sheep. The 1999 lamb crop of 70,000 head was 3 percent less than 1998. The 1999 lambing rate was 127 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 1999, up from 126 lambs per 100 ewes the previous year. An estimated 2,500 Pennsylvania farms raised sheep during 1999, down 4 percent from the previous year.

All sheep and lambs in the United States totaled 7.03 million head, down 3 percent from 1999 and 10 percent below two years ago. Inventory has slowly declined since 1942, when all sheep and lambs reached its peak of 56.2 million head. Breeding sheep inventory decreased to 5.16 million head on January 1, 2000, down 3 percent from 5.30 million head last year. Ewes one year old and older, at 4.23 million head, were 2 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2000, totaled 1.86 million head, down 3 percent from January 1, 1999. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. The 1999 lamb crop of 4.72 million head was down 6 percent from 1998. The 1999 lambing rate was 109 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 1999, compared with 110 in 1998.

## ANNUAL FRUIT SUMMARY

Pennsylvania's 1999 commercial apple production is estimated at 505 million pounds, up 27.8 percent from last year's. The value of the apple production (based on first utilization) was set at \$58.5 million.

The 1999 peach crop totaled 75 million pounds, up 15 percent from the 1998 peach crop. The value of utilized peach production was set at \$23.5 million. Pear production in the state totaled 4,100 tons for the year, down 2,000 tons from the previous year. Utilized production of 4,000 tons was valued at \$1.7 million. Sweet cherry production in 1999 was 800 tons, up 45 percent from 1998. Utilized production of 736 tons was valued at \$1.9 million. The State's tart cherry crop increased in 1999, from 4.2 to 7.2 million pounds. The 1999 price and value estimates will be published on July 7, 2000. Last year's grape production of 88,000 tons was up 63 percent from 1998 production. Utilized production of 88,000 tons was valued at \$24.7 million.

Nationally, the 1999 utilized apple crop totaled 10.5 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 1998. Washington state -- the leading producer -- reported 5.1 billion pounds, down 16 percent from the previous year.

Utilized U.S. production of other fruit crops and the percentage change from 1998 were: peaches, 2.5 million pounds, up 4 percent; pears, 981,550 tons, up 3 percent; sweet cherries, 224,670 tons, up 6 percent; tart cherries, 255.3 million pounds, down 27 percent; and grapes, 6.2 million tons, up 6 percent.

### COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS DECEMBER 31, 1999

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 4,765,000 bushels on December 31, 1999, compared to 4,407,000 bushels on December 31, 1998. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: York with 1,444,000; Rome with 954,000; and Golden Delicious, 929,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 203,571,000 pounds on December 31, 1999, compared to 185,094,000 pounds on

December 31, 1998. Pear stocks in cold storage decreased from previous year's stocks of 368,000 pounds to 148,000 pounds on December 31, 1999.

Nationally, frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on December 31, 1999 were greater than year earlier levels for chicken and butter. December 1999 stocks of chicken, at 803 million pounds, broke the previous record December high of 717 million pounds set in 1998. Cooler stocks of pecans and peanuts were also higher than a year earlier.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were slightly below November 1999 and 9 percent below December 1998. Frozen pork stocks were 2 percent below last month and 17 percent below last year. Stocks of pork bellies increased 54 percent from last month, but were 45 percent below the December 1998 stocks.

Total frozen poultry supplies were up 1 percent from last month and were 3 percent above last year's level. Total stocks of chicken were up 1 percent from last month and were 12 percent above December 1998. Total pounds of turkey in freezers decreased slightly from last month and were 17 percent below last year.

### STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, UNITED STATES

Commodity	Dec 31, 1998	Nov 30, 1999	Dec 31, 1999
(000) Lbs.			
Butter . . . . .	25,910	30,184	25,965
Cheese, Total Natural . . . . .	517,215	591,722	610,736
Eggs, Frozen . . . . .	11,034	8,454	10,135
Poultry, Total Frozen . . . . .	1,025,415	1,052,007	1,058,849
Chicken . . . . .	717,349	795,239	802,922
Turkeys . . . . .	304,309	252,271	252,167
Fruits, Frozen . . . . .	1,208,617	1,277,520	1,171,472
Fruit Juices, Frozen . . . . .	2,197,867	1,448,923	1,662,224
Vegetables, Total Frozen . . . . .	2,317,745	2,483,790	2,279,399
Potatoes, Total Frozen . . . . .	1,151,294	1,254,531	1,151,997
Meats, Total Frozen . . . . .	821,048	750,456	748,643
Beef, Total Frozen . . . . .	296,423	308,936	313,962
Pork, Total Frozen . . . . .	503,509	422,535	415,872

### PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, DECEMBER 1999

Variety	December 31, 1998					December 31, 1999				
	Fresh Market <sup>1</sup>		Processing		Total	Fresh Market <sup>1</sup>		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
(1,000) Bushels										
York . . . . .	5	0	748	451	1,204	2	1	1,032	409	1,444
Stayman . . . . .	25	26	51	21	123	32	17	78	2	129
Rome . . . . .	38	84	514	295	931	31	95	570	258	954
Red Delicious . . . . .	165	380	242	66	853	72	407	216	80	775
Golden Delicious . . . . .	34	137	444	312	927	21	146	315	447	929
Jonathan . . . . .	0	0	13	1	14	0	0	37	0	37
McIntosh . . . . .	6	0	0	0	6	4	0	9	10	23
Cortland . . . . .	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	6	0	7
Other <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	66	51	181	49	347	68	44	335	20	467
Total . . . . .	341	678	2,193	1,195	4,407	231	710	2,598	1,226	4,765

<sup>1</sup> Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. <sup>2</sup> Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified.

### MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Dec 1998	Nov 1999	Dec 1999	Dec 1998	Nov 1999	Dec 1999
Layers . . . . .	Thous.	22,752	22,965	22,720	321,782	328,253	328,646
Eggs Per 100 Layers . . . . .	Number	2,334	2,216	2,271	2,190	2,137	2,213
Eggs Produced . . . . .	Million	531	509	516	7,047	7,016	7,274
Chick Hatch-Egg Type . . . . .	Thous.	6,096	4,205	4,757	35,733	33,078	32,730
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type . . . . .	Thous.	12,811	11,383	12,795	737,840	673,736	747,905
Poults Placed . . . . .	Thous.	-	-	-	24,985	23,500	25,285

### EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in Pennsylvania during December 1999 totaled 516 million eggs, down 3 percent from December 1998. The total number of layers on hand averaged 22.7 million during December, slightly below the 22.8 million one year earlier. Production per 100 layers was 2,271 eggs during the month, compared with 2,334 eggs in December 1998.

Egg-type chicks hatched during December 1999 totaled 4.80 million, 22 percent less than the 6.10 million hatched the previous December. Cumulative egg-type hatch for January through December 1999 was 64.6 million chicks, up less than 1 percent from the 64.3 million in 1998. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 12.8 million during December 1999, which was unchanged from the previous year. Cumulative broiler-type hatch for 1999 was 151.4 million, up less than 1 percent from the 150.8 million hatched in 1998.

United States' egg production totaled 7.27 billion during December 1999, up 3 percent from the 7.05 billion produced a year ago. The total number of layers during December averaged 329 million, up 2 percent from December 1998. Egg production per 100 layers was 2,213 eggs, compared with 2,190 in December 1998. Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during December totaled 32.7 million, 8 percent below December 1998. Broiler-type hatch totaled 748 million, 1 percent more than the previous December.

### COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, DEC 1999

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod	Mil. Lbs.	104.9	3,863
Cattle . . . . .	Thous. Hd.	84.5	2,877
	Mil. Lbs.	105.5	3,523
Calves . . . . .	Thous. Hd.	16.4	113
	Mil. Lbs.	5.4	34
Hogs . . . . .	Thous. Hd.	248.1	8,887
	Mil. Lbs.	60.3	2,320
Sheep & Lambs	Thous. Hd.	6.7	356
	Mil. Lbs.	.7	48
	Live		

### LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production in the state during December 1999 totaled 104.9 million pounds, dressed weight basis, up 4 percent from December 1998. Cattle slaughter, at 84,500 head, was up 8 percent from last year. Beef production, at 105.5 million pounds live weight, was 7 percent more than December 1998. Average live weight per head was 1,248 pounds, a decrease of 19 pounds from last year. Calf slaughter, at 16,400 head, was down 11 percent from a year ago. Veal production, at 5.4 million pounds live weight, was 3 percent less than a year ago. Average live weight per head increased 29 pounds to 328 pounds. Hog slaughter, at 248,100 head, was up 1 percent from last year. Pork production was 60.3 million pounds live weight, up 2 percent from December 1998. Average live weight increased 3 pounds per head to 243 pounds. Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 6,700 head, was up 3 percent from December of last year. Lamb and mutton production was 677,000 pounds live weight, up 1 percent. The average live weight declined 2 pounds to 101 pounds.

BULK RATE  
POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
USDA  
PERMIT NO. G-38

PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE  
2301 North Cameron Street  
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300